

ACTION  
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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-81 ARA-11 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-88 CIAE-88 DODE-88  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PW-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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O R 112031Z APR 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4989  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USMISSION HONOLULU NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

BUENOS AIRES 3858

USEEC

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12865: GDS 4/11/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUPAR  
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - MARCH 29-APRIL 11, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2695

(U) SUMMARY: TERRORISTS AND POLICE WERE SENTENCED. THE  
ARREST OF THREE JOURNALISTS WAS WIDELY REPORTED BUT IN  
FACT WAS UNRELATED TO ANY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THE GOA

CONTINUES TO STIFFARM THE SWEDS ON A DISAPPEARANCE.  
THE MONTONERO SPLIT--AN EVENT THAT REVEALED TWO  
DISAPPEARED MEMBERS OF THEIR BAND ARE LIVING IN MEXICO. END  
SUMMARY.

1. TERRORISTS SENTENCED: THIRTEEN ERP  
TERRORISTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL  
1973 ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE BUENOS AIRES ARMY MEDICAL  
COMMAND LOST THEIR APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISION OF  
A LOWER COURT. THE APPEALS COURT SENTENCED THE 13  
TO TERMS FIVE TO TWENTY-THREE YEARS. ONE APPELLANT,  
HOWEVER, WAS FREED. THE ONLY EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM  
WAS SUPPLIED BY ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK  
AND WAS THEREFORE INSUFFICIENT TO CONDEMN HIM. THIS  
FREED DEFENDANT HAD ADMITTED TO BEING A MEMBER OF ERP BUT HAD  
COMPLETED HIS SENTENCE FOR ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION, AND  
THUS SHOULD BE RELEASED. THE COURT SAID. IN SO  
ACTING, THE COURT UNDOUBTEDLY UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW  
AND DEMONSTRATED ITS INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, DESPITE  
THE APPARENT JUSTICE OF THE DECISION, FREEING THE MAN  
IN QUESTION CAN ONLY STRENGTHEN THE DEEPLY ROOTED  
DOUBTS OF SOME MILITARY OVER THE ROLE OF JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM IN COMBATING TERRORISM.

2. POLICE CONFINED: TWO POLICEMEN WERE  
SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN ROSARIO FOR THE  
1977 MURDER OF A MAN THEY ARRESTED, BEAT, AND FINALLY  
KILLED, "FOR PLEASURE". THESE SENTENCES SEEM TO BE  
PART OF WHAT APPEARS AS AN EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT  
TO REIN IN UNAUTHORIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY MEMBERS  
OF THE SECURITY FORCES BY SIGNALING WHAT CAN BE IN  
STORE FOR INFRACTORS.

Department of State  
UNCLASSIFIED

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INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

3. (U) JOURNALISTS ARRESTED: TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS AND  
A REPORTER WORKING FOR THE ARGENTINE WIRE SERVICE  
NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED LAST WEEK  
IN WIDELY PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS. THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS  
WERE ARRESTED IN A BAR APRIL 2, BUT LET GO SOON AFTER  
THEN ON APRIL 7 THE JOURNALIST WAS PICKED UP AND FREED  
WITHIN HOURS. ACCORDING TO THE MANAGER OF NOTICIAS  
ARGENTINAS THE JOURNALIST AND PHOTOGRAPHERS' EXPERIENCES WERE  
UNRELATED AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ISSUE OF  
PRESS FREEDOM. THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ARRESTED  
FOLLOWING AN ARGUMENT WITH A POLICEMAN OVER WOMEN.  
THE REPORTER WAS DETAINED DUE TO A CONFUSION OVER  
HIS IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE  
INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THESE INCIDENTS WAS THE  
SPEED WITH WHICH THE PRESS HERE REPORTED THEIR  
ARRESTS, INDICATING BOTH ITS GROWING COVERAGE AND  
ITS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE GOA INTIMIDATION.

4. SWEDS TET NO ANSWER: THE LOCAL PRESS  
REPORTED THAT THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER DECLARED  
IN PARLIAMENT RECENTLY THAT THE GOA HAS REFUSED TO  
ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR, OR EVEN ADMIT KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE FATE OF SWEDISH-ARGENTINE NATIONAL DAGMAR  
HAGELIN, WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1977. THE SWEDS' ATTEMPT  
TO PRIZE AN ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE GOA  
BY REFERRING TO SWORN TESTIMONY BY A FORMER GOA  
PRISONER WHO STATED SHE SAW HAGELIN WHILE IN CUSTODY  
HAS PRODUCED NO CHANGE IN THE ARGENTINE POSITION. THE  
DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE SWEDS PRESENTED THIS  
INFORMATION TO THE GOA LAST JANUARY, REPORTEDLY IN  
A LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA.

5. THE GOA'S UNWILLINGNESS TO BE MOVED BY THE  
TESTIMONY OF A FORMER PRISONER IS NOT VERY SURPRISING--  
THE PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THE ARGENTINE INFLEXIBILITY,  
EVEN IN THE FACE OF SUCH A CHALLENGE, COMES AT A TIME  
WHEN THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FIRST OF WHAT MAY BE  
MANY REQUESTS THAT WE USE OTHER STRATEGIES BY FORMER  
PRISONERS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN CERTAIN PERSONS IN  
DETENTION TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE GOA TO GIVE US SOME  
ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.  
WE HAVE RESPONDED BY STATING THAT WE BELIEVED THAT SUCH  
AN APPROACH WOULD PRODUCE NOTHING--AND MIGHT WELL BE  
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THE SWEDISH EXPERIENCE WOULD APPEAR  
TO CONFIRM OUR JUDGMENT.

6. (U) A MONTONERO SPLIT?: PRESS REPORTS FROM MEXICO  
STATE THAT THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT THERE HAS SUFFERED  
A SCHISM. THE BREAKAWAY GROUP, ACCORDING TO THE  
SKETCHY INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, ACCUSES THE  
MONTONERO LEADERSHIP OF RELYING ON MILITARISM AND  
ALIENATING ITSELF FROM THE "MASSES." THE NEW  
ORGANIZATION, WHICH CALLS ITSELF "THE SEVENTEENTH  
OF OCTOBER MONTONEROS," APPARENTLY WANTS TO ENGAGE  
IN POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN  
RELYING ON TERRORISTS TACTICS. (THE DATE REFERS TO  
AN INCIDENT OF THE 1940'S HALLOWED IN PERCHIST LORE.)  
THE SEVENTEEN PEOPLE WHO REPORTEDLY LEAD THE NEW  
ORGANIZATION INCLUDE TWO PEOPLE WE HAVE LISTED AMONG  
THE DISAPPEARED: SYLVIA BERMAN AND JAIME DRI. BERMAN  
WHO REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED IN 1976 WAS ON AN AMERICAN  
ACADEMY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE LIST OF DIS-  
APPEARED PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT. DRI, A FORMER  
PERCHIST LEGISLATOR, DISAPPEARED IN MONTEVIDEO IN 1977,  
AN EVENT THAT STIRRED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. HIS  
WIFE, OLYMPIA DIAZ, WHO WAS LIVING IN PANAMA MADE  
SEVERAL APPROACHES TO OUR EMBASSY THERE SEEKING OUR  
INTERVENTION ON DRI'S BEHALF.

CASTRO

LOT 82D177

BOX 8114 (2/21)

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

UNCLASSIFIED